

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application. Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this response.

The Official Action has restricted the claims into the following groups:

I. Claims 1-16, drawn to a method for reducing the content of metals in ionic form present in aqueous effluents; and

II. Claim 17, drawn to a demonstration kit.

The Official Action additionally restricts the invention into the following species:

Species of metals  $M_h$ ;

Species of metals  $M_j$ ; and

Species of aqueous effluent.

*Group I, claims 1-16, is elected. Species  $M_h$  = nickel is elected. Species  $M_j$  = nickel is elected. The species of aqueous effluent = industrial water is elected. All of these elections are with traverse.*

Traversal is proper because the subject matter of Groups I and II and the species of  $M_h$ ,  $M_j$  and aqueous effluent are so intimately interrelated that no undue burden of search is placed upon the Examiner. Accordingly, rejoinder and examination of all the claims and species is respectfully requested.

Alternately, rejoinder is respectfully requested upon indication of allowable subject matter.

Early and favorable prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully noted that the subject matter of the present invention may be of interest to the subject matter of copending Application No. 10/471,843 (Attorney Docket No. 0512-1178).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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